(vi) Private domestic airlines have been permitted to fly on overseas routes subject to specified guidelines. Further, bilateral arrangements with other countries have been gradually libderalized. These initiatives have enabled considerably better international connectivity.

(vii) Air India and Indian Airlines have been merged to create a strong and efficient national carrier.

(viii) A new Flying Training Institute has been established at Gondia, Maharahstra. Further, Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi has been restructured. These measures would help in putting in place better training infrastructure for technical manpower in the aviation sector.

In view of the above, National Civil Aviation Policy is already on fast track.

Aviation fuel loss

3354. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any estimate has been made on aviation fuel loss in terms of quantity and cost to Air India on account of air traffic congestion during 2007-08 and 2008-09;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The losses for aviation fuel in terms of quantity/cost on account of air traffic congestions during the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 were 16718420 Kgs./Rs. 56.71 crores and 11229328 Kgs./Rs. 68.62 crores respectively.

(c) Does not arise.

Restructuring of NACIL

3355. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the financial problem and the need of restructuring/reviving financial health of National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) was referred to Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE); and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The reference has not been considered necessary because NACIL has taken a number of initiatives of revive the financial health of the Company. Further Air India's

request for equity infusion is under consideration of the Government. A Committee of Secretaries set up under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary will review the progress made by the Airline towards operational and financial restructuring.

Increase in helicopter crashes

†3356. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been increase in the incidents of helicopter crashes in different parts of the country during last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases of helicopter crashes which have come to the notice during the last two years;

(d) whether all these cases have been investigated; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to prevent these crashes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Three helicopter crashes were reported in 2007 and two in 2008.

(d) and (e) All accidents reported are investigated as per prescribed procedures and preventive action taken on the basis of the recommendations emanating from the investigation to avoid the recurrence of similar accident. A Helicopter Cell is working in Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to look after safe helicopter operations and other requirements.

Contract to Pawan Hans Helicopters by ONGC

†3357. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has awarded a contract to Pawan Hans Helicopters to hire twelve helicopters for a period of three years;

(b) whether advanced security measures have to be deployed in these helicopters which were supposed to be completed within 150 days starting from 29 July, 2006;

(c) whether it is also a fact that first three helicopters were to be given in November, 2006 and remaining helicopters were to be given in July, 2007;

(d) the reasons for not carrying out the work by Pawan Hans Helicopters on time; and

(e) the total loss incurred by Pawan Hans due to this delay?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.